

REMARKS

This paper is filed following the Decision on Appeal mailed December 14, 2010 (the “Decision”). Applicant respectfully requests that prosecution be reopened based on the Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 filed herewith.

Following the amendments above, claims 1-13 and 20-23 are pending in this application. In the Decision, the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2002/0033795 to Shahoian (“Shahoian”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,128,006 to Rosenberg et al (“Rosenberg”) was affirmed. Applicant has amended claims

Applicant has amended claim 1, added claims 20-23, and has cancelled claims 14-19. No new matter is added by these amendments and support may be found in the specification and claims as originally filed.

Applicant submits this response with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in light of the amendments above and the remarks below.

I. Claim Amendments

Applicant has amended claim 1 to recite structural components as a part of an inventive system for rotational haptic feedback. The original specification discloses such features throughout. For example, some embodiments are disclosed in Figures 1A and 1B as well as in paragraphs 25-32.

Applicant has also added new claim 20 which recites that the actuator is configured to self-center based on a reluctance torque. Such a feature is disclosed, for example, in paragraph 20.

New claim 21 recites “wherein the touch-sensitive input device defines a hole in its center and wherein the bushing is inserted into the hole from the underside of the touch-sensitive input device.” Such a feature is disclosed, for example, in paragraph 26 of the specification.

New claim 22 recites “wherein the slot has a length of approximately 2 millimeters.” Such a feature is disclosed, for example, in paragraph 29 of the specification.

New claim 23 recites “wherein the button carrier comprises a button.” Such a feature is disclosed, for example, in paragraph 31 of the specification.

II. § 103(a) – Claims 1-19 – Shahoian in view of Rosenberg

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shahoian in view of Rosenberg.

To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the Office Action must show, either from the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, that the cited references disclose or suggest each claimed element.¹

Because Shahoian in view of Rosenberg does not disclose or suggest “a touch-sensitive input device coupled to the bushing and the button carrier, the bushing configured to support and isolate the touch-sensitive input device and to allow the touch-sensitive input device to move in a rotary degree of freedom” or “a button carrier disposed within the bushing, the button carrier defining a slot [and] a pin coupled to the touch-sensitive input device, the pin configured to engage with the slot such that rotation of the touch-sensitive input device is limited by movement of the pin within the slot” as recited in claim 1, claim 1 is patentable over Shahoian in view of Rosenberg. Shahoian discloses touchpads that can be vibrated linearly or in a direction perpendicular to the touchpad’s surface; however, Shahoian does not disclose “a touch-sensitive input device coupled to the bushing and the button carrier, the bushing configured to support and isolate the touch-sensitive input device and to allow the touch-sensitive input device to move in a rotary degree of freedom.” Further, Shahoian does not disclose that a touch-sensitive input device is also coupled to a button carrier defining a slot, and that the touch-sensitive input device comprises a pin that engages with the slot to limit rotation of the touch-sensitive input device. Similarly, Rosenberg does not teach such features. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Shahoian in view of Rosenberg. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1.

¹ See Graham v. John Deere Co., 383 U.S. 1 (1966), KSR Int’l Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S. 398 (2007).

Because claims 2-13, 20 and 21 each depend from and further limit claim 1, each of claims 2-13, 20 and 21 is patentable over Shahoian in view of Rosenberg for at least the same reasons. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 2-13. Applicant respectfully asserts that new claims 20-23 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claim 1.

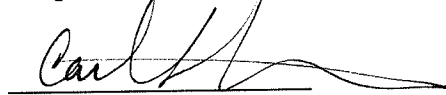
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that in view of the amendments and remarks above, all pending claims are allowable and Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, or suggestions of a nature necessary to expedite the prosecution of the application, or to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is courteously requested to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below.

Date: February 11, 2011

Respectfully submitted,



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